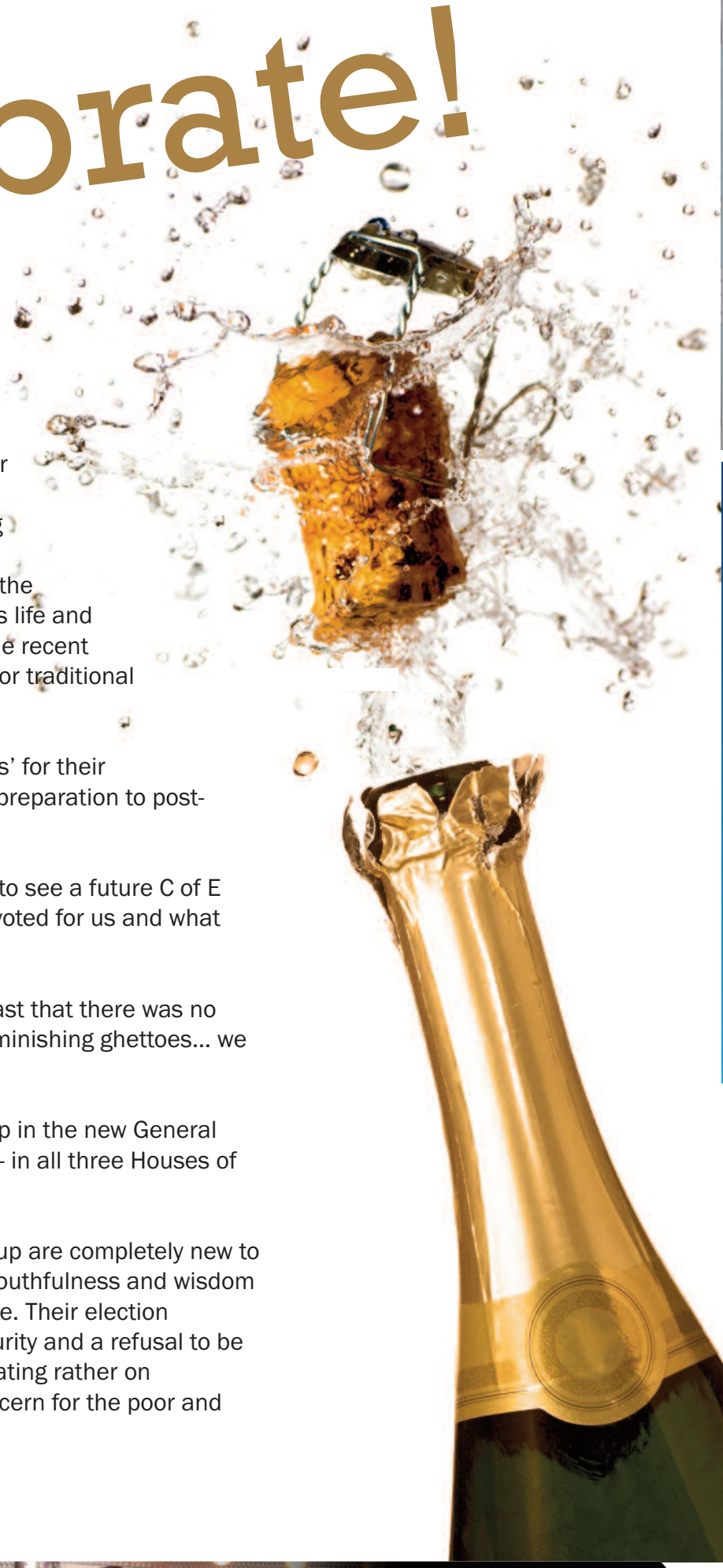
together

THE VOICE OF CATHOLIC ANGLICANS

WINTER 2015

let's celebrate!



Ann Gray the elections officer writes
Thank you...

...to all those members of the Catholic Group in General Synod who retired after many years' service, having secured the settlement contained in the Five Guiding Principles;
- to the many people who responded to the invitation to play a full part in the C of E's life and structures and stood as candidates in the recent General Synod elections, flying the flag for traditional catholic faith and practices;

...to the many diocesan 'backstage crews' for their encouragement and support from early preparation to post-election stages;

...to the many electors who did not wish to see a future C of E excluding traditional catholics and who voted for us and what we represent.

And to Prophets of doom who had forecast that there was no realistic hope and of retreat into ever-diminishing ghettoes... we proved you wrong!

The great news is that the Catholic Group in the new General Synod will be even stronger than before - in all three Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

Half of the members of the Catholic Group are completely new to General Synod; they bring a mixture of youthfulness and wisdom together with a wide variety of experience. Their election addresses displayed overwhelming maturity and a refusal to be seen as one-issue candidates, concentrating rather on evangelism, mission, education and concern for the poor and disadvantaged.

But most of all - Thanks be to God!

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Special Christmas Pull Out

Including where to worship
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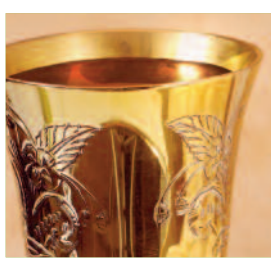

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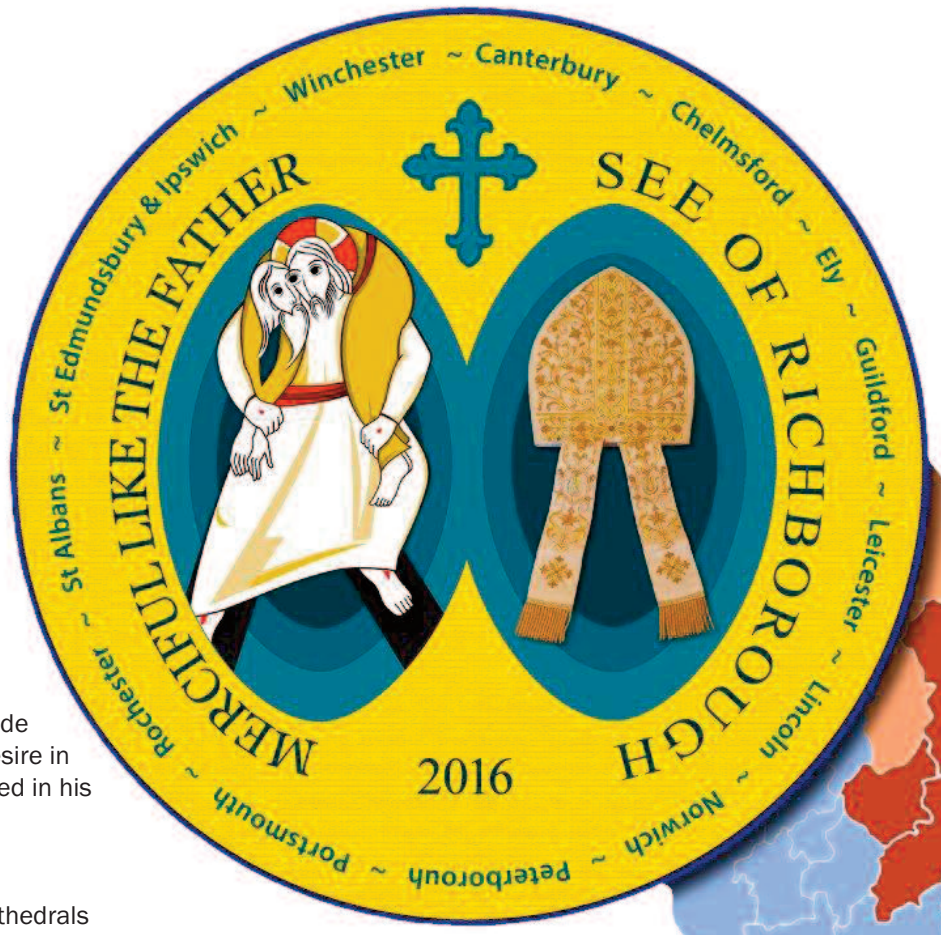
Year of Mercy

Bishop Norman Banks shares with us the thinking behind his initiative to share in the Catholic Church's Year of Mercy 2016.



Bishop Norman, what inspired you to embrace Pope Francis' call for a Year of Mercy?
In the first instance we're looking to build on the fruits that came from our celebrating Pope Benedict's Year of Faith across the See of Richborough back in 2013, but we're also glad to be sharing in a world-wide celebration across denominations that seeks to consciously rekindle a desire in us all to share the good news of the inexhaustible mercy of God as revealed in his Son Jesus Christ.

What form will these celebrations take?
There will be an opportunity for Christians to come together at various Cathedrals across the Church of England, to celebrate the Eucharist and in the breaking of bread to know love of Christ as the fount of God's love and mercy. We hope that these events will be an opportunity for Anglicans to celebrate with the wider Church the initiatives for mercy encouraged by Pope Francis. There will be a sung Mass followed by a bring-your-own picnic lunch then an informal Bible-study led by the Bishop exploring the theme of mercy in the New Testament. We hope that Priests and Parishes will make a conscious decision to attend these events and to embrace this initiative, confident in the knowledge that God promises that all who call upon his name in Christ will know mercy, forgiveness and love.

And how can we prepare as individuals and Parishes for this jubilee year and forthcoming events?
As with the Year of Faith, we'll be launching the Year of Mercy by offering everyone a special prayer card so that we can be united in spirit as we prepare to gather for these regional events. There will be Year of Mercy wristbands and we will also have available enamelled Year of Mercy lapel badges, approved by the international Year of Mercy Office, which will be available in sets of twenty at £40 per set from Fr Richard Norman bishop@richborough.org.uk with any profits going towards the provision for youth work at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. We'll also be planning a Year of Mercy Conference for recently ordained Priests and Deacons from the Society to help them to fulfil their vocation as agents of God's mercy and grace through pastoral care and the administration of the Sacraments.

Year of Mercy in the Richborough Area
9th April, 12.30pm, Lincoln Cathedral
9th July, 12noon, Canterbury Cathedral (Crypt)
6th August, 12noon, St Albans Cathedral
1st October, 12noon, Norwich Cathedral
A prayer for the Year of Mercy

The Year of Mercy will also be celebrated in other Episcopal areas
In the Diocese of West Yorkshire & the Dales on Friday 4th March / Saturday 5th March 2016. 24 Hours for the Lord : A 24 hour Vigil to be held at St Giles Church, Pontefract. More details later. Contact Fr. Rodney Marshall 01226 245361 or fathermarshall.sthelens@gmail.com and on Saturday 4th June A Day for Children and Young People at Mirfield.

Fulham Events for the Year of Mercy
Three Stational Masses on Saturdays in Lent 2016, each relating to the Year of Mercy.

Timetable for each day:
11am Mass
Light luncheon provided
After lunch: Teaching on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Healing, with opportunities for receiving these ministries.
Close at 3pm

Venues:
Saturday, 13th February: St Mary's, Kenton
Saturday, 27th February: St Bartholomew's, Stamford Hill
Saturday, 12th March: St Mary's, Rotherhithe

The Bishop of Chichester will be marking the Year of Mercy in partnership with the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Both will be attending the opening of a Holy Door in our respective cathedrals; prior to Evensong in Chichester cathedral on 6 December, and prior to Vespers in the cathedral in Arundel on 13 December. The Year of Mercy will also provide the material for our Lent Course in the diocese of Chichester, and be part of the diocesan strategy – to Know, Love, Follow Jesus.

The Bishop of Beverley will be holding his usual Northern Festival during the Year of Mercy with details and date to be advertised on his and the society website.

Year of Mercy Lapel Pins

Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik's striking logo for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is now available as a lapel pin, thanks to a touching gesture of generosity by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation in Rome. In response to a request to use the logo for a series of lapel pins, and 'in a spirit of ecumenical fraternity', the Archbishop has granted permission for the logo's use as part of an Anglican fundraising effort to further the Jubilee aim of showing and sharing the merciful love of God.

The pins are available to parishes and other groups in sets of 20, at a cost of £40 per set (inclusive of postage and packing). At least 75% of the money raised will in turn be donated for the work of the Schools Department at The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, as instruction in the Christian Faith is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy. Walsingham is somewhere dear to many Anglicans and Roman Catholics alike, and a place of gracious ecumenical encounter. The Jubilee message of mercy will feature prominently in next year's pilgrimage season. The Bishops of The Society have likewise given their endorsement to this project, and sets of pins will hopefully be available for sale at Society events. Please consider supporting this appeal as a means of prayerfully entering into the spirit of the Jubilee Year, which begins on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015.

To order one or more sets of pins, please e-mail Fr Richard Norman SSC via rjnorman@hotmail.co.uk.

Heavenly Father,
your son Jesus Christ has taught us to be merciful,
even as you are merciful.
Shine the light of your countenance upon us
and we shall be saved.
Send us your Holy Spirit
to consecrate this jubilee as a year of mercy and grace.
Give to your Church renewed enthusiasm,
that she may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives
and to restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

Vocations

Reflections on the last Vocations Conference in Oxford

The weekend opened with an icebreaker session where we were given questions to ask our 'partner'. My 'partner' gave a fantastically amusing, yet deeply meaningful, answer to the question 'If you met Jesus and had only one question to ask him what would it be?', which was 'why did you not give explicit instructions for the Eucharist?!'. Similarly amusing answers to different questions were given by all!

Later in the same evening we had a session on the selection criteria used at BAPs from the Revd Liz Boughton, a Selections Secretary. Her 'inside story' was reassuring and had the 'human touch'. Revd Liz explained that her role was to see BAPs went smoothly and to act as a 'moderator' when the selectors were making their deliberations. Revd Liz explained that that included making sure that there was no bias in the selection process, including on the grounds of churchmanship!

Saturday morning we had a dynamic presentation on Evangelism from Fr Damian Feeney SSC, previous Vice Principal at SSHO. It certainly made us all think about how we as Catholics should be 'out there' in the 'public square' spreading the Good News.

This was followed by a session on parish ministry from Fr Mark North and Fr James Mowbray. What a wonderful example of comparing and contrasting two ministries with different challenges in parishes with very different needs.

Saturday afternoon we had the opportunity to have individual 'discussions' as follows: Confession (Father Darren); Selection Criteria (Revd Liz); Life of a Married Priest (Fr Mark North); Episcopal Conversation (Bishop Norman Banks); Spiritual Direction (Revd Joan Whyman).

Sunday morning we had a really insightful session on spirituality and prayer from the Revd Joan Whyman. A lady who was ordained a Baptist minister in 1987, who has vast experience of leading retreats and quiet days, as well as Spiritual direction. A deeply spiritual lady who I felt privileged to meet.

The above is a brief and selective insight to the weekend, which included many services and prayer sessions, and was characterised by prayerful reflection, deep spirituality and wonderful fellowship.

Heartfelt thanks to Fr Darren

'Sex, drugs and rock and roll'

Daniel Morgan was one of those who attended our Vocations Conference in September. He writes about his struggle and journey to discern God's will.

My faith story starts about four years ago. I was working as an actor, based in London, enjoying a good level of success working in television and theatre.

At the time I felt the call, I was living a life that was very much a party life the typical 'sex, drugs and rock and roll'. I was living very much for myself, not a bad person, but not exactly that great either. I was having a great time, loving what I was doing, and enjoying the bohemian life style I had. However, deep down I felt something was missing. The material world offered me everything I wanted, but there was still a niggle, an itch that wouldn't go away, and I wasn't sure what it was.

As time went on I began to think more and more about what this feeling may be, what it was that was distracting me, and calling me to stop and take notice. In hindsight I know now that this feeling was a sign post on the road, and that there had been many more long before this time, but I hadn't had the power to see them.

It was after a performance of a quite dark and challenging production that I found myself leaving the theatre quickly after the curtain came down. I headed out into the night, not taking the usual route to partake in the after show drinking in the local pub. I had a strange feeling, a feeling that there was something more than what I had, and that I needed to find it, whatever it may be.

I found myself following a path beside a river which wound along a bank of trees up to a quiet spot just outside of town. The path led to a church. I wasn't sure how or why, but it felt as I had been drawn here, that I was being called to this place. I wasn't sure if it would even be open, but as I moved towards the old medieval door, I found that it was, and more than this, there were people inside.

The church was lit up inside with candles, and there was a reading taking place. I took a seat at the back of an aisle and listened. As it happened this was an all-night reading of the King James Bible, to mark its 400th anniversary. My mind was stirring, and I can't remember now what was being said, but I felt moved almost to tears. After a while the church became empty. I sat in silence in complete awe and wonder at being in that sacred space and had an immediate connection, a spiritual connection, and a sense that I might have found what I was looking for. I stayed there until the wee small hours.

Something happened that night. I felt what could be described as a call, although I didn't hear it but I felt something, a desire to know more. This felt utterly crazy to me. I wasn't a religious person at all; I was raised Methodist, but never really believed in anything. But sure enough, I was beginning to believe something, and as Peter was asked to leave his life as a fisherman to follow Jesus, I too felt that I needed to start on the road and follow.

However, I wasn't as brave as Peter; I didn't just drop what I was doing and leave my life, but it happened gradually.

At the end of my contract with the theatre, I returned home with a determination to find out more about this feeling I had. I wanted to get into a church and be with God once again. As it happened the first church I went into was a Roman Catholic Church, and it was there at my first experience of the Mass that my heart was given completely to God. The whole ceremony and ritual of the service lifted me out of this world, and into an immediate connection with a higher realm. I had found my faith.

My journey didn't end there, however. After this initial high came a deep and long process of discernment. I became a pilgrim on the road of faith. Now that I had it I wanted to understand it, and I needed to discover why God had called me out. This was a journey both in a literally sense of becoming a pilgrim, venturing to Santiago di Compostela, as well as to the Holy Land, to try and make sense of what it was to be a Christian and follow Jesus. And also in my own spiritual journey and prayer life, taking time to move closer to God through prayer, contemplation and by going on retreat.

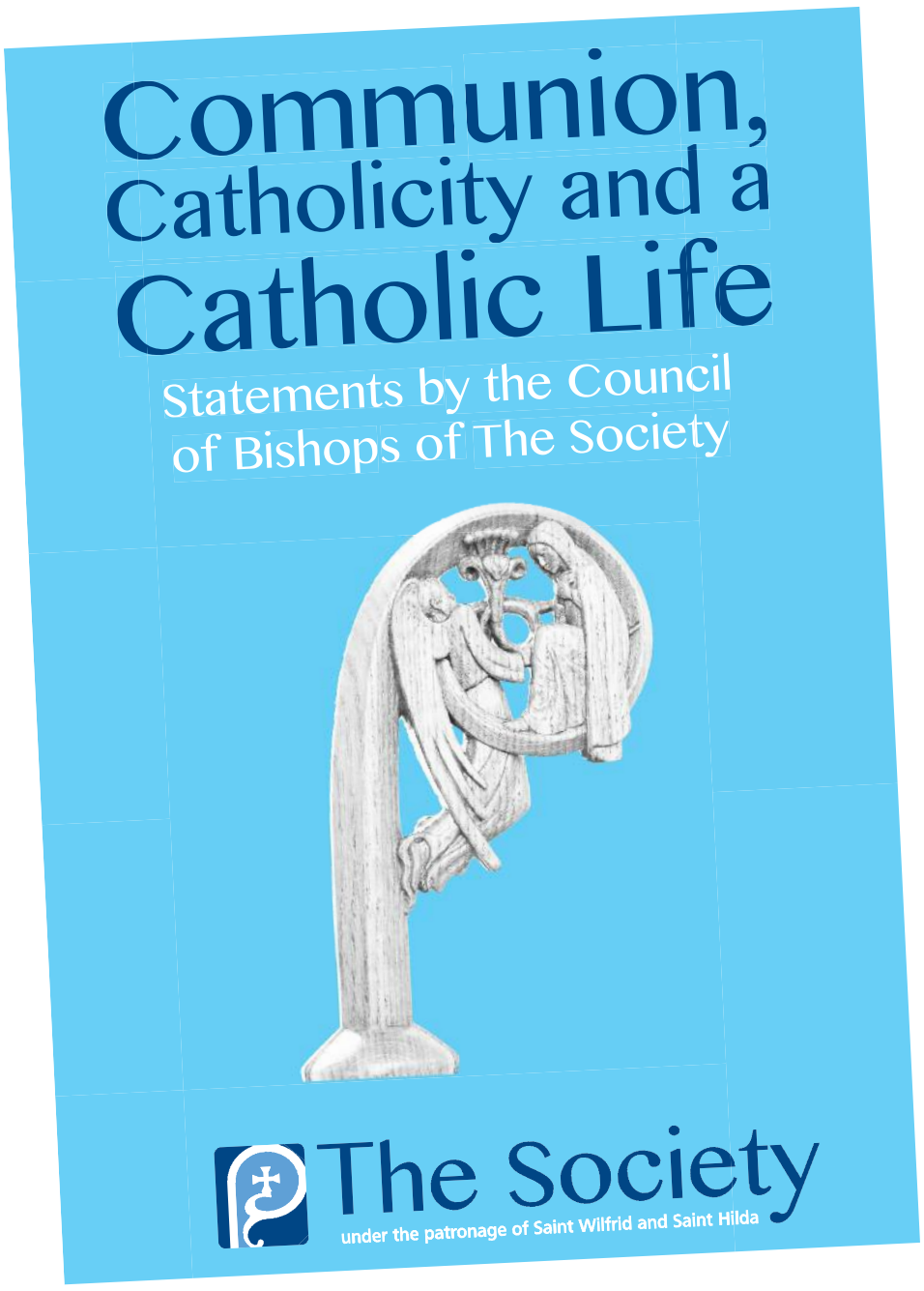
More recently, after a few years of discovering, I have begun to pray and ask God what he may want of me, and if I had anything to offer that he may use to serve his church. It may well be the case that I am through living my life, and in my work, serving God, telling others about my journey of faith. But I was curious to know if this call was a call to vocation, and if I had the possible gifts to serve God in Christian ministry as a priest. I was unsure, but still felt compelled to trust that God had something in store for me, and that I needed to take the plunge to find out, to take another leap into the unknown.

Is God calling you to be a priest?

Why not join us on our Discernment Date Saturday 28th November at 10.30 Christ the King, Gordon Square.

Please e-mail us at: fr.smith@additionalcurates.co.uk

Or why not visit the Here I Am Website: here-i-am.org.uk



Colin Podmore looks at the bishops' statements and leaflet

- Now that there are women bishops, how do The Society's parishes and people relate to the rest of the Church of England?
- Why do we need the ministry of bishops who don't ordain women as bishops and priests?
- What are the implications for ordinations, and for receiving Holy Communion?

Such questions prompted the Council of Forward in Faith to ask the Council of Bishops of The Society for teaching and pastoral guidance. They responded with two statements, published in the booklet Communion, Catholicity and a Catholic Life, as well as a leaflet, Communion and Full Communion, also available at www.sswsh.com/statements.php

Drafts of the statements were discussed by the Forward in Faith Council – a representative body which brings together bishops, clergy and laypeople of The Society. The booklet and leaflets have been sent to Society parishes and to resolution parishes that are under a Society bishop but are not yet affiliated to The Society. If your parish has not received them, please ask your priest or churchwarden to contact the Forward in Faith office.

The answers to the questions lie in a theology of communion (fellowship). The life of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is an eternal communion of love. All who are baptized and profess the Apostles' faith share in that communion. Just as the life of the Trinity is a communion of love, our fellowship with others in the Church of England must be characterized by love (charity). After a time of disagreement and tension, we are called to the recovery of love – love for the Church of England and for those with whom we have chosen to continue to share its life. Our bishops suggest ways of giving expression to the communion that we share with the rest of the Church of England.

The full communion of the Church involves communion between communities that celebrate the Eucharist, with teaching and ministry that can be recognized as catholic and apostolic. It is the ministry of a bishop that unites these eucharistic communities in full communion with each other and with churches headed by other bishops – in the Church of England and the wider Church. Parishes, clergy and people are in full communion with their bishop when they can receive the sacramental ministry of all those whom their bishop ordains.

Where this is not the case – because bishops ordain those whom we cannot recognize as standing within the historic succession of apostolic ministry as it is held within the ancient churches of East and West – communion is no longer full. There is still a degree of communion, flowing from our common baptism, but that communion is diminished. There is a tear in the fabric of our communion, but it is not torn apart.

As catholic Christians, we are called to, and need, a life of full communion. This is why our parishes pass resolutions that bring them the sacramental ministry and pastoral care (oversight) of a bishop with whom they are in full communion. The Society is a structure of full communion which unites the bishops that oversee these parishes and thus unites the parishes. In The Society, the bishops commend priests whose ministry all can receive with confidence.

It is important to be clear about what we are not saying when we request a bishop with whom we are in full communion.

- We are not saying that we are 'out of communion' with the Church of England or with its other bishops, just that, as the Church of England itself recognizes in the Five Guiding Principles, that communion is now less than 'full'.
- We are not saying that we want no part in the wider life of the Church of England, in our deanery and diocese and nationally, or want to have nothing to do with the diocesan bishop.
- We are not saying that when a male bishop ordains a woman his ministry is 'tainted', that ordaining a woman makes him no longer a bishop or that the men he ordains are not priests.
- We are not saying that we need a bishop with whom we agree about everything.

We just want what all the Church of England's other parishes have – a bishop with whom we are in full communion because we can receive the ministry of all whom that bishop ordains. Similarly, our ordinands want to be ordained by a bishop with whom they are in full communion. This is particularly important in the case of ordination to the priesthood and the episcopate.

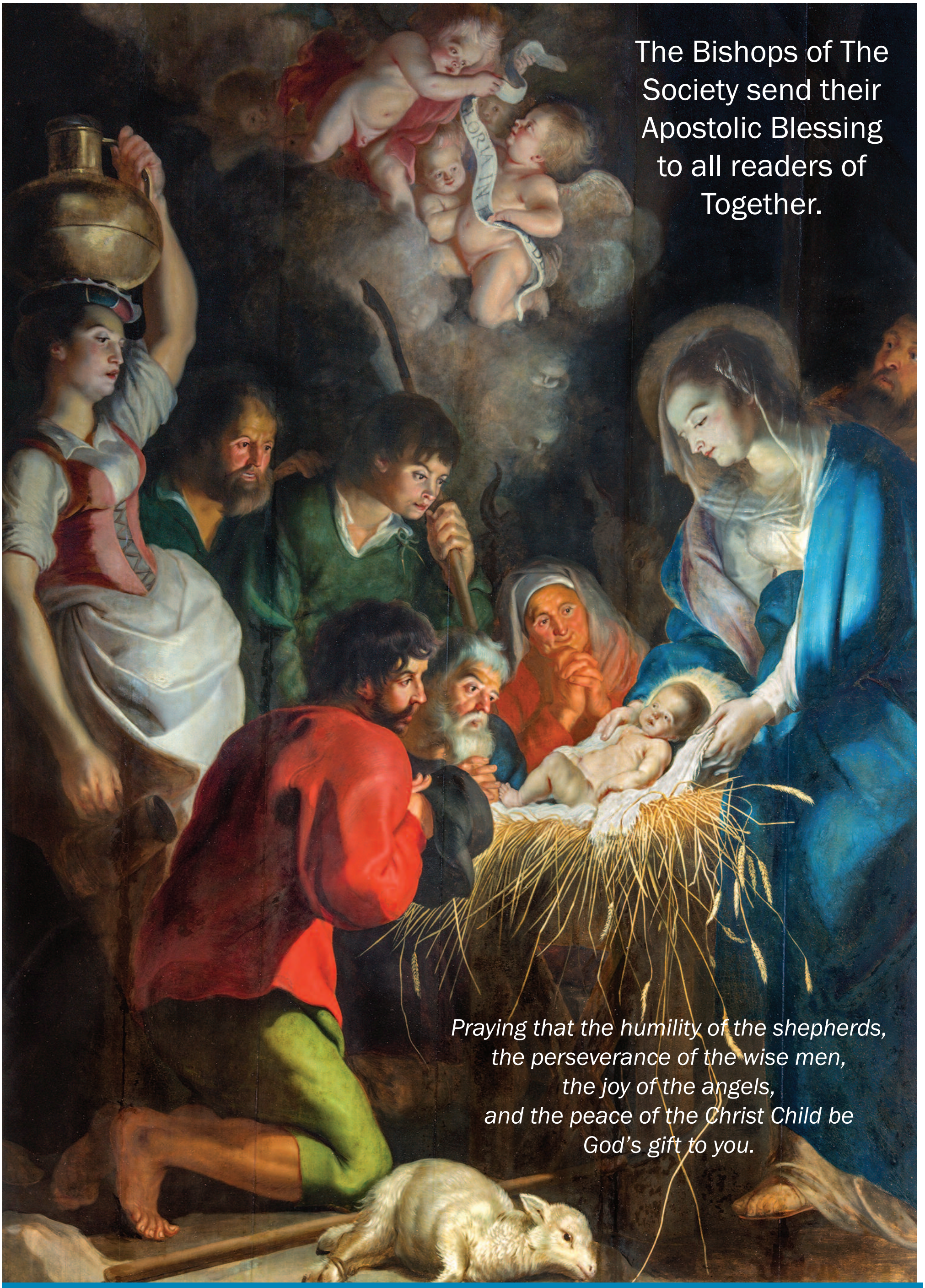
What does this theology of communion and full communion mean for receiving Holy Communion? Our bishops are clear that normally Holy Communion is received in a context of full communion. For us, this will mean receiving communion in parishes that are affiliated to The Society or at celebrations of the Eucharist at which Bishops and Priests of The Society preside. But the bishops also recognize that there can be occasions when it is appropriate (though none should be compelled) to receive communion from other male bishops and priests who have been validly ordained (ie by male bishops who stand in a succession of bishops at whose episcopal ordination a male bishop presided).

The decision as to whether to receive communion from such bishops and priests must be one for the person concerned, as a matter of conscience. The bishops comment that decisions taken in good conscience should be respected. Sometimes the wrong decision will be taken, albeit for the best of motives. 'When this occurs', they say, 'it is important that we bear with one another in love.'

There is much more in the statements and even in the leaflet than can be summarized in a brief article. Please read them, study them, and reflect upon them.

Dr Colin Podmore is the Director of Forward in Faith and the Secretary of the Council of Bishops of The Society.

> "As catholic Christians, we are called to, and need, a life of full communion."



Christmas Card designs available from www.additionalcurates.co.uk

I unashamedly love Christmas.

I even enjoy much of the razzmatazz surrounding the festival. The often frenzied preparation, trees, cards, festive street lighting, good food and all the trimmings of a Dickensian Christmas hold few horrors for me. Long ago, when the Church wanted a time to celebrate the Lord's birthday, it chose that time of year in Europe when the darkest time of the year had reached its peak. Now, at last, things were beginning to change. The pagans had a festival to mark the worst of the dark winter being over. What better time for Christians to keep Christ's birthday? Christmas Day entered our calendar as the day of marking Jesus' birth.

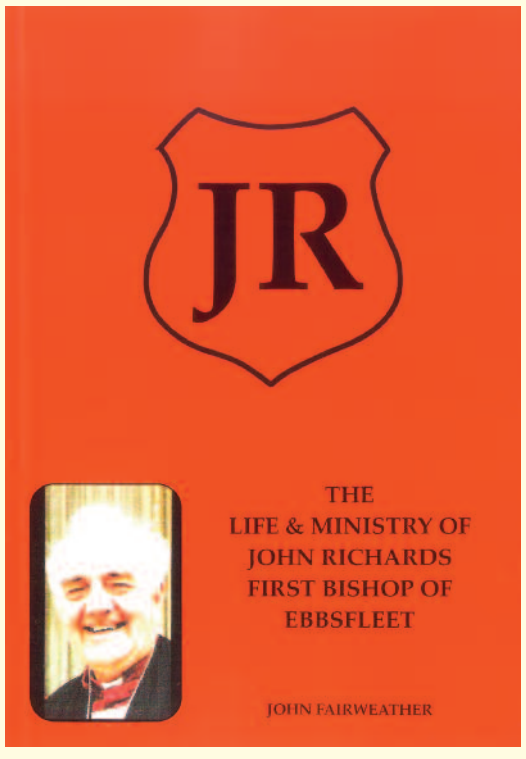
Centuries on it can seem that we are back where we started. Many folk once more enjoy a jolly mid-winter festival, now augmented by customs for marking Christ's birthday that have grown up across the years but seemingly as devoid of true Christian content as were the celebrations of our pagan forefathers. It is, though, all too easy to be selfrighteous. Our Lord, after all, seems to have been all too ready on occasion to join in parties with those whose outlook was in so many ways different from His own. He even got into trouble for it. Jesus' condemnation of the rich man, Dives, was not that he partied but that he did so every day. This year, as ever, I will again be seeking to enter into the Christmas spirit with all around me and not retreating into a self-righteous religious ghetto. What is more, even within our society's increasingly secular marking of Christmas there is still, for some, the carol singing, the cribs and the nativity plays. The Pope's Christmas tree is displayed in St. Peter's Square a fortnight before Christmas, hinting of its Christian significance. If we want to spread something of the true meaning of Christmas then you and I want to be building on these Christian vestiges for all we are worth.

Christmas, though, is exciting for me for much more than the razzmatazz. You and I are celebrating something far more than the end of winter once more being in sight. I am overwhelmed at the wonder of God embracing poverty. We are used to giving something of our money to help others. The amazing thing about God is that He is prepared to take the form of one of His creatures, to experience humanity, to be like you and me. You and I might give to those worse placed than ourselves. God takes the place of those who are, as it were, at the bottom of the pile. Jesus is born in a stable. Jesus will eventualy hang on a cross with the most despised of all, two wicked criminals. God has an affinity both for the poor and for those who make the biggest mess of their lives. Christmas spurs us on in our concern to show that same generous love to others. We have a concern for the poor and the outcast because Jesus has exactly that for each of us.

Then, as you and I think about the love of God shown in Christmastide, we can see something of the wonder of what it is to be human beings. Those around us so often take human life for granted. In a world of wars, terrorism, people-trafficking and muggings it is all too easy not to expect much of human beings. In Bethlehem's crib God assumes the life of a human being. God could never speak to you and me through Jesus unless it were possible to use human life for something good. It would be something like trying to talk in Chinese to people who could only speak German. God can convey something of His love through human life. We should treasure, therefore, the life God has given each of us and see it for the precious gift it is. And that is only part of the story. Once Jesus has taken our human life then each of us can know that, in so far as we share His life, we can share in the life of heaven, of God Himself. There is something to raise us out of our short-sighted view of what it means to be human. With God sharing our lives, this world can be made utterly different.

The Bible talks of Jesus being the yeast that makes the bread rise rather than remain flat. That is what Jesus comes to do. That is the wonder of Christmas. That, surely, is a reason for unashamed delight in the Christmas season.

+Martyn Jarrett



JR - The Life & Ministry of John Richards

Available from the Additional Curates Society before its international launch, a newly published book about the first Bishop of Ebbsfleet John Richards, his life and his ministry. 112 pages including archive photographs and articles written by Father John Fairweather.

The present Bishop of Ebbsfleet writes:
"Those who knew JR - and perhaps more importantly, those who didn't - will be grateful to Fr Fairweather for this memoir and the insightful oversight..."
+ Jonathan Ebbsfleet

£10.00 per copy including postage.
Telephone 0121 382 5533 or e-mail
carole@additionalcurates.co.uk

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mary@college-of-readers.org.uk
Annual membership fee £15.00

North-West Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester Sodor and Man

Holy Family,
Lord Lane, Failsworth,
Manchester

Christmas Eve
4.pm Christingle, 10.00pm
First Mass of Christmas.
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass

Contact - Fr.Tony Mills
0161 681 3644

St Barnabas Parish Church
Morecambe

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
8.30am Mass
10.00am Solemn Mass
4.00pm Carols at the Crib
Saturday, St Stephen
10.00am Mass
Holy Family
8.30am Mass
10.00am Solemn Mass
4.00pm Compline
Holy Mother of God, 1st Jan
12 noon Solemn Mass

Parish Priest: Fr Tom Davis SSC
01524 415216

Saint Catherine's
Todmorden Road, Burnley, Lancashire

CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00pm Children's Mass & Nativity Play
11:30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
8:15am Mass & 10:30am Sung Mass

EPIPHANY COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE
Sunday, 3rd January 2016
6:30pm In Aid of Pendleside Hospice

Daily Mass Christmas Week and throughout the year

For other times please contact
Father Roger Parker 07977 291166
or see our website
www.saintcatherines.co.uk

St.Barnabas,
West Street, Crewe.

A Parish of St.Wilfrid and St.Hilda under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Beverley.

For Confessions and Daily Mass times:
01 270 212418.

Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service for Families and Children, 11pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
10am Solemn Mass and Procession to the Crib.
Sunday 27th December
10am Mass, 5.30pm Mass, 6pm Carol Service and Benediction.

Vicar: Fr.Ralph Powell SSC

S. Stephen on the Cliffs Blackpool

Sunday 20th
18.00 Candlelit Carol Service
24th Dec
16.30 Children's Crib Service
Christmas Day
23.45 Solemn Midnight Mass, with procession of the Bambino & Blessing of the Crib. 9.00 Said Mass of Dawn
10.30 Solemn Mass
Saturday 26th
S. Stephen, Patron Saint of the Parish.
10.30 Solemn Mass & Procession

Canon Andrew Sage.
andrewsage@aol.com 1253351484

St Hilda's, Prestwich.
Greater Manchester

FiF Parish under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Beverley

Services during the Christmas season.
All as normal plus:-

Monday 14th Dec Carol Service

Thursday 24th Dec
First Mass of Christmas at 8.30pm

Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day
Mass at 11.00am

Contact: Fr Ronald Croft 0161 773 1642

The Parish of Swinton & Pendlebury, Manchester

Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Vigil Mass at Saint Peter's (M27 0WA) 7.30pm. Sung Mass of the Vigil & Blessing of the Crib at Saint Augustine's (M27 8UX) 11.30pm. Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib at All Saints' (M27 9UG) & at Saint Peter's
Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn at Saint Peter's
Sung Mass of Christmas Day with Carols at All Saints' at 9.30am, Saint Augustine's at 10am, & Saint Peter's at 10.30am.
December 26th
11am Solemn Mass for Saint Stephen's Day at Saint Peter's, followed by refreshments

For details of carol services, other services, etc.
Fr Jeremy Sheehy 0161 794 1578 or
Parish Office 0161 727 8175
paroffsandp@btconnect.com

St.Agnes & St.Pancras
Toxteth Park, Liverpool, L17 3BA.

Advent Four
6.30pm Carol Service with Benediction.
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass.

Contact Canon Christopher Cook SSC
0151 733 1742
Website: www.stagnes.org.uk

S. Andrew West Kirby

Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle,
11.30 Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8am Low Mass,
10.30am High Mass.

Parish Priest Fr. Walsh.
0151 632 4728,
www.standrewswestkirby.co.uk

St.Oswald & St.Thomas of Canterbury, Chester

Wednesday 23rd December
12.30pm Lunch time Mass

Christmas Eve
6pm Carols by Candlelight, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
10am Christmas Morning Mass

Contact Fr.Robert Clack 01 244 399990

All Saints, South Kirkby

Sunday 20th Dec
4.30pm Christmas Carols and Christingle Celebration

Christmas Eve
6pm Christmas Family Mass.

Christmas Day 9am Parish Mass

Parish Priest: Fr.Timothy Kaye
01 977 642795

St.Margaret, Hollinwood & St.Chad

Limeside, Chapel Road, Hollinwood, OL8 4QQ

Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib at Midnight.

Christmas Day
The Nativity of the Lord
11am Parish Mass.

Sunday 28th Holy Family
10.30am Parish Mass, 3pm Community Carols at the Crib with Benediction.

1st January Mary Mother of God
12 noon Solemn Mass. Masses throughout the Octave at 9.30am

Contact Fr.David Hawthorn
0161 681 4541

St. Matthew's Church,
North Quay, Douglas. IOM

Thursday 24th – Christmas Eve
3.00pm Family Mass & Nativity Pageant
11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Friday 25th – Christmas Day
10.00am High Mass of the Nativity

Sunday 27th The Holy Family
9.00am Low Mass
10.30am Solemn Mass

Tuesday 29th December
8.00pm Carols and Readings for Christmas

Fr. Bob Boyle, 01624 676310
stmatthewsiom.org

St.Michael,
Coppenhall, Crewe

Christmas Eve
6.00pm Crib Service and Christingle,
11pm Midnight Mass of Christmas.
Christmas Day
8.00am Mass, 10.00am Sung Mass with Carols.

ABC Parish under the care of the Bishop of Beverley

Contact Fr.Charles Razzall SSC
01 270 215151

St.Augustine's
Tonge Moor, Bolton

Wednesday, 16th December
7.30pm Carol Service (St.Aidan's).
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass with the completion of the Christmas Crib.
Christmas Day
9.15am Sung Mass
(St.Aidans),10.30am Solemn Christmas Mass.
Sunday 27th December 3pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Fr.Tony Davies 01204 523899
ALL WELCOME

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ROYTON

December 20th 5.00pm
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
The First Mass of Christmass & Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 9.30am
Mass of the Day

For further information contact the Parish Priest: Fr Peter McEvitt
Tel: 01706843485
frpetermcevitt@googlemail.com

North-East -Durham, Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales), Newcastle, Sheffield, Southwell and Nottingham, York

CHRISTMASTIDE AT S. MARY MAGDALENE, MILLFIELD, SUNDERLAND

20th December, Advent 4
Solemn Mass 10.30
Carols and Lessons 18.00
Mary & Joseph arrive at The Stable in Bethlehem

24th December Christmas Eve
12.00 Midnight Procession & Solemn Mass Midnight Mass of Christmas with Blessing of the Crib.

25th December Christmas Day
10.30 Mass of The Day with Carols round the Crib
18.30 Rosary at The Crib and Candlelight Benediction

27th December St.Stephen
10.30 Mass followed by coffee and mince pies.

28th December Feast of the Holy Family
Solemn Mass 10.30
Benediction 18.30
Low Mass 19.00

3rd January Sunday The Feast of the Epiphany
10.30 Solemn Mass with Procession of the Kings. 18.30 Benediction
Low Mass 19.00

Parish Priest: Fr. Beresford Skelton
0191 565 6318

Saint Cyprian of Carthage

Lancaster Road,
Nottingham,
(Top of Carlton Hill)

The Nativity of the Lord

Dec 24th 11.30pm
Solemn Mass

Dec 25th 10.00am
Solemn Mass

An ABC parish in the care of the Bishop of Beverley

St. Andrew's,
Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor

20th December, 4th Sunday of Advent:
9am Sung Mass
6pm Advent Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve:
4pm Crib Service
7.30pm The First Mass of Christmas with Blessing of the Crib, preceded by Carol Singing from 6.45pm

Christmas Day:
9.30am Festival Mass

Parish Priest: Fr. John Livesley SSC: 01388 814817

Christmas at St Luke's Southport, PR9 9AJ
(Corner of St Luke's Rd & Hawkshead St)

Christmas Eve:
7pm First Mass of Christmas with Blessing of Crib & distribution of Christingles.
Christmas Day
10:30am Mass with Carols
St Stephen's Day
Mass 10am
Holy Family Sunday
Mass 10:30am

All enquiries Canon Paul Hutchins ssc
01704 213 711.

St.Matthew,
Carver Street, Sheffield

Sunday 20th December
5pm Christmas Carol Service.

Christmas Eve
Carols with Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
9.30am Solemn Mass. 11am Mass during the Octave.

See: www.stmatthewcarverstreet.co.uk.

St.Oswald's, Hartlepool

Christmas Eve
9.30am Mass, 5pm Carol Service and Nativity, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass

Parish Priest Fr.Graeme Buttery SSC
01 429 273201

S.Chad, Toller Lane,
Bradford

Christmas Eve
11.45pm Blessing of the Crib and First Mass.
Christmas Day
8.30am Mass of the Dawn,
10.45am Mass of the Day

Parish Priest Canon Ralph Crowe SSC Tel. 01 274 543957.

The Church of
St.Columba, Middlesbrough

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day
10am Sung Mass with Carols.
Mass each day during the Christmas Octave.

The Church of
St.John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough

Christmas Eve
5.30pm Carols and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day
10am Sung Mass with Carols.

For further information contact Fr.Stephen Cooper on 01 642 824779.

S. HELEN'S PARISH CHURCH
WEST AUCKLAND, BISHOP AUCKLAND

Friday 18th December
6.30pm Youth Carol Service
followed by a Christmas Party in the Centre

Sunday 20th December (Advent 4)
10.00 am Parish Mass
6.00 pm The Parish Carol Service
with Choirs from Local Schools

Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Family Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight

Christmas Day
9.30 am Family Mass of Christmas Day

Sunday 3th January 2016
The Epiphany of the Lord
10.00 am Parish Mass
followed by the Epiphany Lunch in the Parish Centre 3.30pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction
Daily Mass during the Christmas Octave

Fr Robert McTeer SSC 01388 604152
www.sthelenschurch.co.uk
follow us on facebook

North-East -Durham, Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales), Newcastle, Sheffield, Southwell and Nottingham, York

All Saints Team Ministry, South Shields

Sunday 20th December
3pm Family Carol Service (at St.Mary's, Whitelease).
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Christmas Day Mass.
Sunday 27th December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Contact Fr.Mervyn Thompson
0191 456 1851

St.Philip & St.James, New Bentley

Christmas Eve - 8pm Solemn First Mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day - 10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day.

Pre-Christmas Confessions - by appointment. Fr.S.P.Dickinson 01 302 875266

St.Mary, Horden, Co.Durham

Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
8.30am Mass of the Dawn,
10am Mass of the Day.

Fr.Kevin Smith 0191 586 7110

St Bede, Newsham

Blyth, Northumberland. NE24 4AS.

A Society Parish under the care of the Bishop of Beverley

Christmas Eve
6pm Christingle.
Christmas Day
9.30am Parish Mass.
New Year's Day
11am Sung Mass.
Wednesday 6th January
7pm Sung Mass
(Children enactimg the Gospel)
For details of normal Mass times etc. please see our web site: www.blythchurches.co.uk
Fr Richard Pringle SSC 01 670 352391

St.Wilfrid, Cantley, Doncaster

Christmas Eve
5.30pm Christingle and Vigil Mass (for Families), 11pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
10am Mass of the Day.

Saturday 26th
9.30am Mass,

Sunday 27th
8am Mass, 10am Parish Mass,
6.30pm Carol Service.

All are welcome.

Fr.Andrew Howard 01 302 285316, mob 0774 0932758. e-mail fatherahoward@gmail.com

St Saviour with all Saints,

Scarborough, Gladstone Road YO12 7EP
Christmas Eve
5.30pm Crib & Christingle Service
11.00pm Sung Mass of the Nativity of The Lord
Christmas Day
Mass at 10.00am
Dec 26 St Stephen
Mass at 9.30am
Dec 27 10.00am Sung Mass of the Holy Family 4.30pm Carols and Benediction

Parish Priest Fr.David Dixon, frdavidsmart@gmail.com.

Christ the King, Bowburn

20th December,
4th Sunday of Advent:
11am Sung Mass
3pm Nativity Play & Christingle Service
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity with Blessing of the Crib; preceded by carol singing from 10.45pm
Christmas Day
9.30am Festival Mass

Parish Priest: Fr. John Livesley
SSC: 01388 814817

All Saints, North Street, York.

Christmas Eve
7.30pm Procession, Blessing of the Crib and High Mass, Celebrant the Bishop of Beverley.
Christmas Day
10.30am Said Mass of the Day with Carols.

Contact Churchwardens: Mrs.Jill Marshall 01 904 632516 or Dr.Robert Richards 01 904 782122

Parishes of Edlington S John the Baptist and Hexthorpe S Jude

in the Diocese of Sheffield
Contact: Fr Edmonds SSC 01709 858358
Christmas Eve
3pm Crib Service at Edlington
7pm Vigil Mass and Crib Service at Hexthorpe 11.30pm Solemn Mass During the Night with Blessing of the Crib Edlington
Christmas Day
9am Solemn Mass of the Dawn Edlington
11am Solemn Mass of the Day at Hexthorpe
S Stephen's Day
12noon - Said Mass Edlington
Holy Family
9am Solemn Mass Edlington
11am Solemn Mass Hexthorpe
The Holy Innocents (28th)
9.30am - Said Mass Hexthorpe
S Thomas Becket (29th)
9.30 - Said Mass Edlington
6th Day of the Octave of Christmas (30th)
9.30 - Said Mass Hexthorpe
7th Day of the Octave of Christmas (31st)
9.30am - Said Mass Edlington
1st January 2016 - Mary, the Holy Mother of God
12noon - Solemn Mass Hexthorpe followed by fizz and nibbles

The Parish Church of S.James the Great, Albert Hill, Darlington.

December 21st, 7:00pm
Carol Service of the Nine Lessons, with the choir Voces Assumptionis

Christmas Eve, 3:30pm
Christingle Service for Families - children come dressed as their favourite nativity character or animal
11.45pm
Vigil and first Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, 09:30am
Mass of Christmas Day

Fr.Kenneth Crawford 01 325 240183

St Martin on-the-Hill, Scarborough

Albion Road YO11 2BY

'Scarborough's Pre-Raphaelite Gem'

Christmas Eve
Crib Service 4.00pm
11.30pm Sung Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30pm Sung Mass of Christmas Day
27 Dec Holy Family Sunday Sung Mass at 10.30pm

Parish Priest Fr.David Dixon, frdavidsmart@gmail.com.

South-West Bath and Wells, Bristol, Exeter, Gloucester, Salisbury, Truro [plus South Wales]

All Saints with St Saviour,

All Saints Road Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2NL
A Peaceful and Holy Christmas to all

Carols by Candlelight
Harmonia Sacra: Director Peter Leech
With Andrew Kirk, Organ and Bristol Brass
Wednesday 16th Dec at 7.00pm
Admission is free with a collection for Weston RNLI New Lifeboat Station

Thursday Dec 24th, Christmas Eve
5.00pm Family Crib Service
11.00pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Friday Dec 25th, Christmas Day
10.30am Said Mass with Carols
Saturday Dec 26th St Stephens
10.00am Mass
Sunday Dec 27th Holy Family
9.00am Mass / 10.30am Parish Mass
Wednesday Dec 30th
10.00am Mass
Thursday Dec 31st
10.00am Mass
Sunday Jan 3rd, Epiphany
9.00am Mass
10.30am Solemn Mass and Procession

Tel: 01934 415379
e-mail: allsaintandstsaviour@btconnect.com
Visit our website www.allsaintswsm.org

St.Helen, Abbottsham

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

For further information contact Churchwarden by e-mail : deniseoldaker@hotmail.co.uk

St.Peter's

Bath Road, Devizes

Nine Lessons and Carols:
Last Sunday in Advent (20th Dec.)
at 7:00pm
Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass
(please contact Vicar for service time)
Christmas Day
Low Mass at 8:00AM
Sung Mass at 10:00AM

Contact Fr. Vincent Perricone 01380 501481

St.John the Evangelist

Bovey Tracey ABC,
Forward in Faith, Under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass.

Saturday 26th December
10am Low Mass.

Sunday 27th December
10am Parish Mass.

Thursday- 10am Low Mass

Parish Priest Fr. Greg Stanton SSC 07925 051905

St.Martin, Salisbury

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
10am Mass of the Day

Daily Mass - contact Fr.David Fisher, 01 722 500896 or visit our website: www.sarumstmartin.org.uk

SACRED HEART MISSION COMMUNITY PLYMOUTH

S. JOHN EXETER STREET PL4 0NG
S. GABRIEL PEVERELL PARK PL3 4JJ
S. MARY FEDERATION ROAD, LAIRA PL3 6BR

CHRISTMASS EVE
CHILDRENS CRIB SERVICE IN S. GABRIEL'S AT 3pm
MIDNIGHT MASS (BEGINS AT 11.30pm) IN S JOHNS

CHRISTMASS DAY
MASS WITH CAROLS AND PRAYERS AT THE CRIB
S. MARY''S 10am
S. GABRIEL'S 10am
S. JOHN'S 10am

S. JOHN'S DAY (SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER)
SOLEMN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF TITLE AT 11am FOLLOWED BY PARISH LUNCH

FR KEITH HAYDON PARISH PRIEST 01752 220644

St. Lukes, Laburnum Road

Milber, Newton Abbot

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service for Children,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass of the Day.

For further information call Graham Whittle on 01 626 212339

All Saints'

Exeter Road, Exmouth

Christmas Eve
6pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am Low Mass, 10.30am Sung Mass with Procession

Contact: Fr.Robert Sellers 01 395 270206

Christmas in the Parish of Swindon New Town

Sunday 20 December
4.00pm Crib Service at S. Mark's
6.00 Community Carol Service at S. Luke's

Tuesday 22 December
7.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at S. Mark's

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service at S. Saviour's
9.00pm Mass of the Nativity at S. Luke's
11.30pm Midnight Mass at S. Mark's

Christmas Day
10.00am Family Mass of Christmas Day at S. Saviour's

Contact Fr Dexter Bracey 01793 538220
swindonnewtown@btinternet.com

The Church of The Good Shepherd, Furnham

Christmas Eve
11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass (Sung)
Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Mass (Said with Carols)
Saturday 26th December St. Stephen
10:00 a.m. Mass (Said)
Sunday 27th December - The Holy Family
9:45 a.m. Mass (Sung)
3:00 p.m. Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 3rd January - Epiphany Sunday
9:45 a.m. Mass (Sung)

Contact: Fr.Jeff Williams 01 460 419527.
Website: churchofthegoodshepherd-chard.weebly.com

The Parish of St.Peter & the Holy Apostles, Plymouth

Christmas Eve
7pm Blessing of the Crib and First Mass of Christmas at St.Thomas, Keyham and St.James, Ham.

11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass of Christmas at St.Peter's, Wyndham Square.

Christmas Day
10am Sung Mass and Carols at St.Peter's.

OCTAVE (including Feasts)
10am Sung Mass DAILY in St Peters

Fr.David Way 01 752 222007
fr.davidway@gmail.com

S.Swithun, Bridport.

Resolutions AB&C,
Forward in Faith Church.
Sunday 20th December
4pm Carol Service.
Christmas Eve
8pm First Mass of Christmas.
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass.

Contact Nigel Green on tel: 01308 420466

Heavitree Parish, Exeter

St Michael's (Church Lane)

Christmas Eve
6pm Crib service
Christmas Day
11.30pm Midnight Mass
8.00am Said Mass
10.30am Morning Mass with prayers round the crib

St Lawrence's (Lower Hill Barton Road)
Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service
Christmas Day
11.30pm Midnight Mass
10.30am Morning Mass

fuller details: www.heavitreeteam.org.uk

THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS

GENERAL SECRETARY

Applications are invited for this part-time post.

The Annual Salary is £5000.00.

Applications initially to David Morgan dgllm@btinternet.com when full details will be supplied.

The deadline for indications of interest is 31st December 2015.

South-East Canterbury, Chichester, Guildford, London, Portsmouth, Rochester, Southwark, Winchester

Holy Trinity Church
Bellevue Road, Ramsgate.

Christmas Services 2015
Sunday 13th December
09:30 Sung Mass, 15:00 Carol Service and Nine Lessons
Normal Parish Masses
Tuesday 09:30 Said Mass and Benediction and
Wednesday 18:00 Said Mass
Sunday 20th December
Mass at 09:30, followed immediately by Christingle
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 11:30
Christmas Day - Sung Mass at 10:00
Contact: Ruth Leach-Bing, Churchwarden 01 843 863425 or Fr.Peter Adams 01 843 593593, Rector.

All Saints, Twickenham

Christmas Eve
10pm Mass of the Nativity of the Lord.

Christmas Day
11am Parish Mass.

Fr.Alex Lane 0208 894 3580
Website: allsaintstwickenham.co.uk
Live liturgy stream:
www.ustream.tv/channel/all-saints-twickenham
Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/AllSaintsTwickenham

All Saints Benhilton
Sutton, Surrey. SM1 3DA
A Forward in Faith Parish under the care of the Bishop of Fulham

Christmas Eve:
5:00pm - Christingle & Crib Service
11:00pm - Carols by candlelight
11:30pm - Solemn Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:
10:00am - The Solemn Mass of Christmas Day

Mass will be celebrated daily during the Christmas Octave
- for further details, please contact:
Fr Peter Harnden SSC (020 8644 9070)
Mr Doug Boreham (020 8646 4682)
& Stanley Palmer 020 8330 7408

St.Dunstan with Holy Angels Cranford, West London.

The nearest F in F Parish to Heathrow Airport.

Christmas Eve
3.00pm Crib Service (Holy Angels),
11.30pm First Mass of Christmas (St.Dunstan's).

Christmas Day
10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day (Holy Angels).

Sunday 27th
Holy Family - 9.30am Solemn Mass (Holy Angels), 11.15am Solemn Mass (St.Dunstan's).

Rector: Fr.Michael Gill SSC
020 8897 8836.

Saint Matthew's
Willesden NW10 4AU

Sunday 20th December
6pm Carol Service and Pontifical Benediction.
Wednesday 23rd December
7.30pm Rorate Mass.
Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass,
Christmas Day
11am High Mass.
All other Services as usual.
www.stmatthews-willesden.org.uk
Fr Andrew Teather SSC 020 8965 3748

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
35a Durham Road, East Finchley, London N2 9DP

Sunday 20th December
6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve
3.00 pm Children's Christmas Service with Carols
11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass
with Blessing of the Crib followed by wine and mince pies
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day
8.00 am Mass of the Dawn
10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day
Vicar: Fr Christopher Hardy SSC
020 8883 9315
www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk
www.facebook.com/allsaintsef

Church of The Annunciation, Chislehurst.

Sunday 20th December
4.00pm Readings & Carols in preparation for Christmas.
Christmas Eve
4.00pm Family Crib Service,
11.30pm Solemn Mass of Midnight.
Christmas Day
8.00am Low Mass of the Dawn,
10.00am Sung Mass of the Day.
Contact: 020 8467 3606
annunciation.chislehurst@gmail.com
and on Facebook

WINCHESTER
Holy Trinity, Upper Brook Street
Thursday – Christmas Eve - 24th December
'Midnight' or 1st Mass of Christmas
7.00pm Friday
Christmass Day 25th December
Christmas Day Mass 10.30am
Saturday 26th December - St. Stephen's Day
Low Mass 12.00 noon
Sunday 27th December - The Holy Family
Parish Mass 10.30am
Monday 28th December – Holy Innocents
Low Mass 12.00noon
Tuesday 29th December – S. Thomas Becket
Low Mass 10.30am
Thursday 31st December – S. Sylvester
Low Mass – 12 noon
Friday 1st January 2016
Mary, Mother of God, Naming of Jesus,
Low Mass 12.00 noon
Sunday 3rd January 2016
The Epiphany (The Wise Men)
Parish Mass 10.30am
Contact Canon Malcom Jones SSC
01 962 810223 (Parish Office)
email:enquiries@holytrinitywinchester.co.uk
Website: www.holytrinitywinchester.co.uk

St Augustine Aldershot

Christmass Eve
5.30 pm Children's Service
11.30 pm Solemn Mass with Blessing of the Crib
Christmass Day
10.00 am Family Mass
Enquiries, Confessions etc
Fr Keith Hodges 01252 320840
www.staugustine-aldershot.org.uk

St.Mary the Virgin
Kenton, HA3 8EJ
www.stmaryskenton.org

Holy Mass is offered daily throughout the year.
All our services are broadcast on the Web. Please see our website.
You are welcome to join us at any time.
Sunday 20 December
4:30 children's crib service
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
10.30am Parish Mass.
God bless you
Fr. Edward J Lewis ,Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen. Vicar. 020 8907 2914.

St George, Bickley BR1 2BE
(in easy reach of Bickley and Chislehurst stations)

Sunday 20th December
10.30am Parish Mass, 6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10.30am Sung Mass.
For more information contact Fr Richard Norman SSC on 020 8295 6411.

Holy Trinity
Winchmore Hill, N21 3RS

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Traditional Nativity Play and Vigil Mass of the Nativity
11.30pm - Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.00am Said Mass and 10.30am Sung Mass. Mass 12.00 noon each day in the Octave.
1st Jan
12.00 noon Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.
For Confessions and for further information contact Fr Richard Bolton rdeb2010@btinternet.com 0208 364 1583

St. Augustine's Church,
Cooden Drive, Bexhill on Sea. TN39 3AZ

Christmas Eve
5.00pm Nativity Play with Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass
(Celebrant and Preacher Bp.Nicholas Reade)
Christmas Day
8.00am Mass,
10.00am Parish Mass for all ages (With traditional carols)
Further details: Fr. Robert Coates SSC
01424 210 785.

St.Mary the Virgin, Littlehampton,

Christmas Eve
5pm Children's Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8am Low Mass, 10am
Parish Mass. Contact Fr.Roger Caswell on 01 903 724410

St.Gabriel
Pimlico, London, SW1

Tuesday 15th December 7:30pm
Handel's Messiah
Thursday 17th December 7pm
Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve
"Come to the Manger" children's service
4.00pm Midnight Mass 11:30pm
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 8am
Parish Mass 10:30am
Contact Fr.Owen Higgs 0207 834 7520
website www.st-gabriels.com

Christmas at St Martin's Ruislip

Sunday 20th December
6.30pm - Carol Service
Christmas Eve
4.30pm - Children's Carols
6.00pm - Family Nativity Mass
11.30pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8.00am - Mass
10.00am - Sung Mass
www.stmartins-ruislip.org

SAINT ALBAN'S, HOLBORN

Tuesday 15th December
6.30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 20th December
9.30 am Family Mass and Christingle
11.00 am Solemn Mass
(Palestrina, Missa O sacrum convivium)
Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Crib Mass for younger children
9.00 pm Midnight Mass
(Mozart, Missa Brevis K49)
Christmas Day 10.30 am Family Mass
Epiphany Sunday 3rd January
9.30 am Family Mass
11.00 am Solemn Mass
3.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service
St Alban's is on Brooke Street and Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1N
www.stalbansholborn.org

St.Andrew's, Deal ABC, FinF
West Street, CT14 6DY

Sunday 20th December - 6.00pm Fesival of the Nine Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Eve - 4pm Christingle, 11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Solemn High Mass of Midnight. **Christmas Day** - 8am Low Mass of the Dawn (BCP, EM), 10am Solemn Mass of the Day and Sermon.
Contact Fr.Stephen Young, Parish Priest or Fr.Ian Shackleton on 01 304 381131

St.Luke,
Kingston-upon-Thames

Sunday 20th
5pm Family Carol Concert with Canbury Singers
Christmas Eve
4:30 pm Crib Service
11pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Nativity
10:30am Sung Mass
Contact Fr.Martin Hislop (Parish Office)Tel. 020 8974 8079.
www.stlukeskingston.org.uk

St.Martin, Lewes Road, Brighton

Sunday 20th December
6pm Carols for Everyone.
Christmas Eve
4pm Children's Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Mass of the Day.
Canon Trevor Buxton 01 273 604687

St. Saviour & St. Peter
Eastbourne

Christmas Eve
4.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn,
10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day.
Fr.Jeffery Gunn 01 323 722317

LONDON SW20
St. Saviour, Grand Drive, Raynes Park.

Christmas Eve 5pm Crib Service,
11.30 Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day 9.30am Sung Eucharist.
Contact Fr.Michael Blackman
020 8542 2787

St. Peter on the East Cliff
The Durlocks, Folkestone, CT19 6AL

Sunday 20th December:
10.30 a.m. Solemn Mass
Thursday 24th December:
11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass
Friday 25th December:
8.00 a.m. Mass 10.30 a.m. Mass for Christmas Day
Saturday 26th December:
12 noon : Mass for St Stephens Day
Sunday 27th December:
10.30 a.m. Carols and Communion – The Holy Innocents
Friday 1st January:
12 noon Low mass: Mary Mother of God
Sunday 3rd January:
normal services – Christmas 2
Wednesday 6th January:
7.30. p.m. Sung mass for Epiphany
Contact Father David Adlington or Father David Goodburn SSC
01 303 254472
stpetersfolk@yahoo.co.uk
www.stpeterschurchfolkestone.org.uk

All Saints
South Wimbledon

Christmas Eve 3pm Crib Service, 11.45 Midnight Solemn Mass.
Christmas Day 11am Solemn Mass
Contact Fr.Michael Blackman
020 8542 2787

St.Michael and All Angels, Poplar Walk, Croydon.

Sunday 20th December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
St.Stephen - 11am Low Mass.
Sunday 27th December
8am Low Mass, 9.30 Family Mass, 11am Solemn Mass.
Sunday 3rd January, Epiphany
8am Mass, 9.30am Family Mass, 11am Pontifical Mass with the Bishop of Fulham.
For further information please contact Parish Administrator on 0208 680 2848
e-mail: michaels.church@btinternet.com

St. Agnes, Kennington Park, St. Agnes Place, SE11. ABC FiF

(nearest tubes Oval or Kennington on the Northern Line)
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Solemn Mass.
Sunday 27th December,
Holy Family - 10am Solemn Mass.
Contact: 020 7820 8050
frpaulensor@btconnect.com
saintagneskenningtonpark.co.uk

SS.Stephen and Mark, Lewisham

(opposite Lewisham Station and DLR)
Saturday 19th December
5pm Carol Service.
Advent 4
10am Mass and Nativity Play.
Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Service, 5.30pm Vigil Mass, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn, 10am Mass of the Day with Carols at the Crib, 4pm Benediction at the Crib.
St.Stephen's Day
11am Patronal Festival Mass
Priest in Charge: Fr .Philip Corbett 0208 318 9590

South-East Canterbury, Chichester, Guildford, London, Portsmouth, Rochester, Southwark, Winchester

S. Peter's London Docks, London E1W

Christmas Liturgies 2015

Christmas Eve

5pm Children's Christingle Service
11.30pm Solemn Pontifical Mass of the Nativity
Celebrant Rt Revd Robert Ladds SSC

Christmas Day

8am Mass of Christmas dawn
10am Solemn Mass of Christmas Day

S. Stephen (26th)

11am Mass

Holy Family Sunday (27th)

8am Mass
10am Solemn Mass

January 1st 2016 Mary, Mother of God

11am Mass followed by Prosecco and mince pies.

Contact: Father T E Jones SSC
020 7481 2985
www.stpetershondondocks.org.uk

Parish Church of St.Cuthbert w St.Matthias

Philbeach Gdns., Earls Court SW5

Saturday 12th December
4pm Community Carol Service.

Wednesday 16th December
7.30pm Parish Carol Service.

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day 10.30am Sung Mass.

Contact: Father Paul Bagott
07711 405750 or 0207 370 3263,
email: frpaul@saintcuthbert.org

St.Anselm's Parish Church, Hatch End

Sunday 13th December
4pm Carol Service.

Sunday 20th December
10am Parish Mass and Nativity Play.

Christmas Eve
5pm Children's Christmas Service,
12 midnight Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn, 10am Parish Mass of the Day.

Saturday 26th December,
St.Stephen - 10am Mass.

Sunday 27th - Holy Family
8am Mass, 10am Parish Mass.

Friday 1st January, Mary Mother of God - 10am Parish Mass.

Fr.Clive Pearce:
020 8428 4111 (07710 900545)

The Ascension

Lavender Hill, London SW11

Christingle Saturday 20th Dec at 5.00pm, Readings from the King James Bible.

Christmas Eve
11pm Solemn High Mass of Midnight.

Christmas Day
10.30am Solemn High Mass of the Day.

Sunday 27th
Holy Family High Mass
11.00am

Friday 1st Jan
Mary Mother of God - Mass
12.00 noon

Epiphany Sunday 3rd Jan
High Mass 11.00am

Parish Priest, Fr Iain Young
020 7228 5340

St. Michael and All Angels,

Tonbridge Road, Maidstone.

Sunday 20th December 10.30am Mass.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day 10.30am Mass of the Day.

Contact Jeanette Ardley 01 622 664678

West-Central Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Hereford, Lichfield, Oxford, Worcester

All Saints with St.Michael, Shrewsbury

20th Dec Advent IV - Parish Mass 10.30am
9 Lessons & Carols 3pm

Christmas Eve - Crib Service 4pm / Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day - Parish Mass 10.30am

26th Dec S. Stephen - Low Mass 10.00am

27th Dec Holy Family - Parish Mass 10.30am

28th Dec Holy Innocents
Low Mass 10.00am

29th Dec S. Thomas Beckett
Low Mass 10.00am

30th Dec 6th Day of the Octave
Low Mass 12.30pm

31st Dec 7th Day of the Octave
Low Mass 9.30pm

1st Jan Mary, Mother of God
Low Mass 6.30pm

Enquiries: Fr Michael Fish SSC 01743 244879

Parish of Tividale, Oldbury

St Michael's B69 2LQ (SM)
Holy Cross B69 1LL (HC)
Advent & Christmas 2015

Sunday 20th
3 pm Carol Service SM
6 pm Carols by Candlelight HC

Christmas Eve
4 pm Family Crib Service SM
7 pm Family Crib Mass HC
11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass SM

Christmas Day
9.30 am Mass of the Day SM

Fr Martin Ennis 01384 257888
www.vicaroftividale.co.uk

St.Giles-in-Reading

Christmas Eve
4pm Family Crib Service,
12am Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.15am Low Mass,
10.30am Sung Mass.

Parish Priest Fr.David Harris
01 189 572831.
Website:www.sgilesreading.org.uk

St. Luke the Evangelist

Virginia Road Gillingham ME7 1PB

Medway's Hidden Gem!

Sunday 20th December
5pm Carol Service.

Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service,
11.45pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Say
10.30am Family Mass.

For Weekday Services and other information please visit our website:
www.fifparish.com/home/stlukesgillingham

Parish Priest - Father Paul Matthias SSC
07976 594207

All Saints,

Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey

Sunday 20th December (Advent 4)
10am Parish Eucharist, 6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve
4.30pm Crib Service, 8pm Midnight Mass at St.Thomas, Harty, 11.30pm Midnight Mass at All Saints.

Christmas Day
10am Parish Eucharist.

26 December (St. Stephen):
9.30 am Eucharist

27 December (St. John):
10 am Parish Eucharist

Contact Fr.Chris Shipley
01 795 880205

St.Luke's, Holbrooks, Coventry

Sunday, 20th
4pm Family Carol Service (with Coventry Festival Band).

Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight.

Christmas Day
8am Mass.

Contact Fr. Kit Dunkley for information and times of Confessions:
024 7668 8604

St Peter's Crabbs Cross, Redditch

Sunday 20th December, Advent 4
6pm Carol Service.

Christmass Eve
4pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass.

Christmass Day
10am Mass of the Day.

St.Stephen
9am Mass.

Sunday 27th, Holy Family
8am Mass, 10am Sung Mass.
Solemnity of the Mother of God,

1st January
10am. Mass 9am Mass during the Octave.

Fr.Mike Bartlett SSC 01 527 545709

All Saints, Small Heath, Birmingham, B10

Sunday 20th December
6pm Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve
3pm Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
10.30am Mass for all the Family.

Fr.Oliver Coss 0121 772 0621
www.allsaintsonline.co.uk

St Agatha's Sparkbrook & St Barnabas' Balsall Heath Birmingham

Christmas Eve
Blessing of the Crib and Family Mass 6.30 pm at St Agatha's

Christmas Day
Solemn Mass of Christmas 10.00 am at St Barnabas'

Enquiries to
0121 449 2790

SS Mary & Chad, Longton

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Family Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity.

Christmas Day
10.00am The Parish Mass.
Confessions after any of the above or by appointment.

Fr.Kevin Palmer 01 782 313142

Saint Luke's Church,

Caversham Road, Kingstanding, B44 0LW

20th December 2015
Carol Service & Frozen Festival 5.00pm

24th December 2015
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

25th December 2015
Christmas Day Mass 10.30

East-Central Chelmsford Ely, Leicester, Lincoln, Norwich, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Peterborough, St Albans

Holy Trinity, Hempton

ABC, FiF (near Fakenham, Norfolk)

Christmas Eve
4pm - Family Crib Service.

Christmas Day
10am - Parish Mass.

Parish Priest: Fr.Lockett
SSC 01 328 820030.

St.Augustine Grimsby

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day
9.30am Parish Mass.

Parish Priest
Fr.Edward Martin 07736 711360

Christmas in Walsingham

Christmas Eve
4.30pm Crib Service (Shrine Church)
6.30pm Vigil Mass (Shrine Church)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (S.Mary's Parish Church) and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day
8.00am Mass of the Dawn (Shrine Church)
11.00am Mass of the Day (S.Mary's Parish Church)

Vicar: Fr Andrew Mitcham SSC
01 328 821316

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, South Benfleet, Essex

[A Parish affiliated with THE SOCIETY]

Late Advent & Christmas 2015

Sunday, 20 December
Morning Masses then:
4pm - Christingle, a family service with our local schools
6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols

Thursday, 24 December
4pm, 'Crib Service' for children
11.45pm - The Nativity of the Lord, Midnight Mass

Friday, 25 December
10am, Mass of Christmas Day

[See the notice board for other Masses and Benediction during this period.]
Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Drake, SSC

St.Giles-in-Reading

Christmas Eve
4pm Family Crib Service,
12am Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.15am Low Mass,
10.30am Sung Mass.

Parish Priest Fr.David Harris
01 189 572831.
Website:www.sgilesreading.org.uk

St.Luke's Parliament Street, Derby

Christmas Eve - 4pm Christingle and Blessing of the Christmas Crib, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day - 10.00am Family Mass.

Contact Colin Lancaster
01 332 676567

Christmas at Holy Trinity Biscot, Luton

Sunday 20th Dec: 10am Holy Communion: 6.30pm Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve: 4pm Christingle Service: 11pm Midnight Mass with Carols. **Christmas Day:** 10am Procession, Blessings and prayer at Crib, and Parish Communion with Carols.

Fr.Thomas Singh
01 582 579410

St Peter, Bushey Heath.

Christmas Eve
11.30pm First Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day
9.30am Family Mass with carols

Parish Priest
Fr. Andrew Burton SSC (020 8950 1424)
www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk
Under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Richborough

St.Michael, Thorpe-le-Soken Near Clacton-on-Sea

Christmass Eve
5.00pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.

Christmass Day
10am Family Mass. Daily Mass.

Fr.Jeremy Dowding SSC
01 255 861234

CHRISTMAS IN WEST NORFOLK

Off the A10 between Ely and King's Lynn

St Edmund's, Downham Market (ABC)
All Saints', Hilgay (ABC)
And under the same management:
St Mary's, Crimplesham
St Mary's Stradsett

Christmas Eve
16h30 Christingle & Carols (DMkt)
19h30 Mass of Christmas Night (Hilgay)
19h30 Christmas Night Eucharist (Crimp.)
23h45 Crib Blessing & Midnight Mass (DMkt)

Christmas Day
10h30 Mass - said, with carols (DMkt)
10h30 BCP Holy Communion (Strad.)

Holy Family Sunday
10h30 Benefice Eucharist (DMkt)

For full details of regular services, go to www.saintedmund.org.uk

Fr James Mather ssc, Rector
(01366) 382187
Fr Alan Davies, Assoc. Priest
(01553) 810675

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015

ST LAURENCE, LONG EATON

Market Place NG10 1LT (diocese of Derby)

Christmas Eve:
4 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:
9.30 am Sung Mass

Parish Office: 07791596404

HOLY TRINITY, ILKESTON

Granby Street DE7 8HQ (diocese of Derby)

Christmas Eve:
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:
11.00 am Sung Mass

Parish Office: 07570597873

Bishop Roger Jupp SSC (Parish Priest)

from The Church Union Foundations.

Course available from www.additionalcurates.co.uk

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Meditations on a Hymn

How disappointed I usually am when, having chosen this hymn for the Offertory at Midnight Mass, it fails to be as enthusiastically sung as I would want it to be! It is a hymn I love and I love the tune to which we normally sing it in this country Noel, a traditional English melody adapted and extended by Sir Arthur Sullivan. The words come from a strange American stable (no pun intended), having been penned by Edmund Sears who, though a Unitarian minister, accepted the divinity of Christ. The hymn appeared in 1850 at a time of upheaval and unrest following European revolutions, Chartism in Britain, and war between the United States and Mexico. Sears' personal melancholy runs through the hymn, portraying the world as full of "sin and strife" and being deaf to the Christian message. Indeed, he apparently sets his focus not on the place of Christ's birth but on these problems of his own age and on theme of war and peace. These come through verses 2-3, and particularly in verse 4 with the picture of men toiling "beneath life's crushing load" and which is perhaps why this verse is often omitted.

As with so many Christmas hymns, we are invited to enter into the song of the angels, the emphasis being on their message of peace and goodwill. But what they share with us is a true love-song. Indeed, the hymn suggests that the angelic song has continued since the Lord's birth, but it has been drowned out by all those years of wrong. Only when peace comes to the world, and the strife is o'er, and the discordant Babel sounds are stilled, will humanity join in this heavenly chorus. However, once, particularly, did the world stop to listen to hear the song of the angels: it was on "the midnight clear" and there was a unique stillness created when heaven was joined to earth by the gift of "heaven's all gracious King." That gift is not really named, but it is more than the gift of peace, and more than one of goodwill. The gift is one of love, a love wholly embodied in the infant Christ, the Son of God, by whose birth into the world of men begins that age of gold. As we prepare for Christmas, we ask God to change the poverty of our nature by the riches of his grace in this holy birth, so that we may ever be changed from glory to glory.

From the Church Union Foundations Sunday School Material

Spotlights on the Sacraments Part 2

The Eucharist

Jesus said to them "Come and have breakfast". Now none of the disciples dare to ask him "Who are you" because they knew it was the Lord.

John 21

Meals played an important part in all of Jesus' ministry. Being a devout Jew the Passover and the Sabbath would have been significant days for Christ and his disciples. It was of course on the night before he was betrayed at the Feast of the Passover that Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples with the powerful words "This is my body, this is my blood, given and shared for you. Do this to remember me." The words above from John 21 also remind us that it was at a different meal that would have been to the disciples reminiscent of the Last Supper that Jesus' resurrection presence was felt. And now for over 2000 years Christians have met in catacombs, homes, churches, Cathedrals, almost anywhere, to do as Jesus taught. To take, bless, break and receive, to remember Christ and feed on him, not as someone who lived thousands of years ago but someone who is alive and present now and giving himself to us as he gave himself to them.

The Catholic understanding of the Eucharist challenges us to know the Lord in this meal, to look beyond the outward exterior of bread and wine and to experience the inner reality of the real presence of Christ. Theologians use complicated names and titles, such as Transubstantiation and Consubstantiation but for the majority of Catholic Christians we rely not on complicated names and phrases but on the inner experience and knowledge that it is the Lord. They often say, do they not, that children are much better at understanding and expressing themselves than adults. I fondly remember finding a child's book on the Eucharist where Jesus is giving his disciples the bread of life and the cup of salvation simply with these words "This is me". Our Catholic faith firmly believes that the Bread and the Wine through the power of the Spirit truly and uniquely become the body and blood of the Lord. Just as Jesus fed his disciples in the Upper Room, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, so too he feeds us, his new disciples, not through our own worthiness, but through his generosity.

It is amazing really when you think how Jesus took the ordinary things of life, bread and wine, and transformed them into extraordinary gifts, and so too he can take our ordinary and mundane lives and transform us into extraordinary witnesses for His good news.

One of my favourite hymns which has become a little tired over the years expresses this so beautifully when it says:

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Joan Whyman

Editor of Christian Life.

Crossroads Sheffield Mission

Timidity is a quality often thought essential to Anglican bishops. Either those of the Province of York lack it, or else they overcame it in choosing Sheffield for the first of what are intended to be annual missions to the northern dioceses.

Bishop Philip North

It was a brave decision, since the people of South Yorkshire are among the least religious in the world, and the Diocese is more divided by tradition that any they could have picked. All the ingredients for failure were in the cupboard. Retrieving, mixing, and cooking them was unlikely - we thought - to make for a happy dinner party. We were wrong, and the reason we were wrong may be of interest to readers of Together.

Though the Diocese is as divided as our episcopal visitors - someone missed a good photo of the bishops of Beverley and Stockport chatting outside Sheffield Town Hall - we were there to make one proclamation: Jesus. Some were surprised that Society parishes were such enthusiastic participants in the mission. Why? What on earth did they think we are here for?

The separations that make up our lives as Catholics in the Church of England, codified in the recent statements by the bishops of the Society, are only there so that we can proclaim Jesus. Or, rather, so that He can proclaim Himself. What the Society in the Diocese gave the mission was a sacramental edge, a witness to the fact that however slick our attempts to proclaim Jesus are, they are nothing without His proclamation of Himself in the sacraments of the Church, above all in the Mass.

> When the parish of S Matthew's, Carver Street, took an empty market stall for the mission it housed not the paraphernalia of a card-making workshop, but an altar.

When the parish of S Matthew's, Carver Street, took an empty market stall for the mission it housed not the paraphernalia of a card-making workshop, but an altar. At this altar, before a large congregation of shoppers, and stall-holders, the Bishop of Beverley offered the Mass on Saturday afternoon. That evening at New Bentley, while the Bishop of Beverley was at a community event in New Rossington, one of the Bishop of Burnley's ordinands - a traditionalist at Mirfield - gave a testimony of Jesus' call to him in the Blessed Sacrament.

The next evening at Goldthorpe, the Bishop of Beverley commissioned lay people from Society parishes for work as missioners. How else were they to begin their work than by seeing and receiving Jesus' proclamation of himself in Benediction? The evening ended, as everything seemed to, with a bunfight in the Church Hall next door.

The title of the Mission was 'Crossroads.' This was the suggestion of the Bishop of Sheffield, with Jeremiah 6.16 - 'stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths' - in mind. The people of South Yorkshire were given a choice: the road to God, or the road away from him. The Society in the Diocese were fully involved in the work of confronting people with this choice.

During the three days we realised that in confronting others with this crossroads we were being confronted with a different one of our own. In one direction lay life in the Church of England, through its imperfect institutions making heard the call of the Catholic Faith; in the other direction lay home, the comfort of bitterness, and the safety of the club. The Crossroads Mission, the fruits of which are already appearing in our parishes, should encourage us to take the first path. As Dave Allen would say, may our God go with us.

Around the Dioceses with the Bishops Reps

Celebrating 150 years in Lewisham

On Saturday 8th August over 180 people gathered in the parish of St Stephen's Lewisham to give thanks for 150 years of faithful ministry in the parish. During the celebratory Mass the Bishop of Fulham hallowed a new icon of St Stephen.

Catholic Societies 3 day IME Conference

Bishop Norman Banks is joined by over 30 newly ordained Deacons and Priests from England and Sweden for his 3 day Residential Conference looking at thetheme of One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

24 Hour Prayer Vigil held at All Saints Church, Middlesbrough.

Fr. Richard Brown SSC of The Ascension, Middlesbrough, said, "I would like to share with you a story about an Iraqi priest which was told to me by a lady who has visited Iraq a number of times over the past year. This lady met Father John during her first visit to the country. At first, she didn't recognise him as a priest as he wore no clerical shirt and neither did he carry a stole. He ministered faithfully under harrowing conditions to a group of displaced Christians in the mountains of Northern Iraq. It was at the end of her first visit that he chose to send back to the UK the only Christian symbol he possessed; a small cross with the request that we pray diligently for the Christians of Iraq. To him, this small cross became a symbol of hope for those persecuted Christians who are isolated and ignored by the world.

Father John was killed by an Islamic State attack on the camp in July this year.

"And so, to continue Fr John's call to prayer for persecuted Christians in Iraq, we held a 24 hour prayer vigil in All Saints, Middlesbrough. We were also joined by a number of bishops from the society who supported this call to prayer in their respective Dioceses. We were also joined by a group at Scarborough (S. Saviour's) and also (at the same time and for 24 hours) by the Sister Luke and her community in Al-Quosh in Northern Iraq."

Family Barn dance - Fun for all

Billed as a family Barn Dance, over 150 adults and children made their way on a blustery afternoon in the middle of July to Collaton Down Farm, home to Farmer Phil and Gail Bond who kindly hosted the event. The Social Committee had spent much time transforming the barn from a lambing pen to a welcome venue with strings of lighting, miles of bunting, and wild flowers sitting on chequered table cloths on the tables. Families and friends began to arrive shortly after 5pm and the kids dived straight onto the bouncy castle, which proved to be a huge success. They didn't even appear to notice the rain, and many ended up like drowned rats - though still happily smiling.

We were soon to be greeted by the delicious aroma of roast lamb; Phil and Gail carved the lamb and served tasty roast lamb rolls, sausages and burgers with all the trimmings. Meanwhile the band known as 'Folk 2' warmed up and Ken Hudson, the 'caller', gathered the kids together and led them through a couple of dances.

It wasn't long before everyone began to join the country dancing, some with more expertise than others, but everyone appeared to enjoy the music and action. A lull in the proceedings led Ken to invite both Father Will and Father Nick to entertain the assembled company by performing the 'Broom dance' which involved improvised dance steps over a broom handle.

This was carried out with much aplomb, and was encouraged by the audience who cheered and clapped in appreciation. By the end of the evening everyone went home happy, weary and replete, though there were several stiff muscles felt the following morning.

From 0 to 60...

At the beginning of October, Canon Hilary Davidson SSC celebrated his sixty years of priestly ministry with a Mass of the Holy Angels at St Mary's Church in Wellingborough. A large congregation gathered from across the diocese of Peterborough and beyond to mark the occasion and the Bishop of Richborough preached the homily. The Mass was made even more notable by the presence and ministry of newly-minted deacon, Father Matthew Robinson, who is serving his Title at St John's Sevenoaks, but who worshipped at St Mary's Wellingborough before training for the priesthood. So, a priest of sixty years' standing and a deacon ordained for just one week... our wish for them both is Ad Multos Annos!

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea!

While the weather was not tempestuous, it certainly was wet! But that did not deter just under 100 people from gathering, by kind permission of the Dart Harbour Board at the town pontoon for the now annual service of boat blessing on Sea Sunday hosted by Christians Together in Dartmouth and District.

Boats were sailed to the pontoon by individuals as well as representatives from Dartmouth Gig Club, our very own RNLI Lifeboat, and the Castle Ferries. There were also representatives from Dart Sailability, Dartmouth Sea Cadets and the Harbour Board present at the service accompanied by Phil Watson and some sea shanties from the Nauti Bouys.

During the service Fr Will leapt like a gazelle between boats to bless them and notwithstanding the rain, he kept dry! After the boat blessing, the Castle Ferries took people down the river to the St Petrox, which had been beautifully decorated by Christopher and Lizzie Helyer, where we were joined by another throng of people for Choral Evensong.

The lessons were read by Captain Henry Duffy from the Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) and Jan Scott, the Deputy Chairman of the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority. The sermon was given by Fr Keith Robus RN, the Anglican Chaplain at BRNC. The service concluded with the ancient service of the blessing of the waters.

The format of Sea Sunday worked really well this year as we continue to re-invigorate the celebration of the life of the river and the sea in this beautiful town. Next year, we hope to build on our success so far and lets all hope for a little more sun!

Forward with Mary

Traditional Catholics in the Leicester diocese have been travelling with Mary over the summer and early autumn months. A good crowd of young pilgrims from the diocese made their way to the youth pilgrimage and as usual were much encouraged by God's grace in England's Nazareth.

For the Feast of the Assumption, we held a great celebration at St Hugh's, Eyres Monsell during which there was a procession of witness with Our Lady in the midst of God's People.

On September the 24th Bishop Norman gathered us together at St Chad's in Leicester to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. Speaking about his time as Vicar of Walsingham, Bishop Norman reminded us about the singular grace bestowed through the prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham and of the work of God's Holy Spirit in bringing healing and renewal to those who pray at England's Nazareth. A candlelit procession brought Mary out onto the streets and we renewed our commitment to join with her in pointing others to Jesus.

Other events within the diocese are seeing Society Parishes working together in a Mission Partnership to look at some of the lessons that can be learned through the 'Leading your Church into Growth' Course: Local'.

We are now busy planning renewal and outreach events for 2016 and are looking forward to celebrating the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Philip O'Reilly,ssc
Bishop's Representative for the Leicester Diocese.

Patronal Festival at St Luke's

Bishop of Beverley helping to serve over 200 people Fish and Chips when he recently came to Saint Luke's Kingstanding to celebrate their Patronal Festival and Confirm 19 Adults.

HOWELL & BELLION
Church Interior Decoration
66A HIGH STREET, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX CB10 1EE.
Telephone: 01799 522 402 Email: howellandbellion@btconnect.com
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The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary have just launched two short films aimed at raising awareness of their work and ministry in the hope of recruiting more servers.

The two interrelated films feature a bishop, a priest and several servers from churches all over the country. There are candles, chalices and linen -as well as the swinging of incense surrounded by glorious vestments. The films are indeed rich in colour and symbolism.

"The idea initially was to have just one video but we actually had so much good footage that we produced two different ones using mainly the same people to get the message across that serving really matters and that we hope that it won't die out," said Fr Rob Marshall, who project-managed the production of the films.

The first video The Beauty of Holiness focuses on the glory of worship and the synergy between the priestly act of celebration with the often unsung ministry of the server in the sanctuary. With some evocative footage, filmed slightly in slow motion to emphasise the intensity and richness of liturgical symbolism, The Beauty of Holiness features the Bishop of Chichester talking about the drama of liturgy.

The accompanying video, Not to be Served but to Serve, focuses more on how servers in parishes across the country dedicate their lives to assisting the church through a love of service and devotion to the task. There is the preparation and setting up, the choreography and taking part, not to mention the tidying up afterwards and making sure all is ready for the next Mass.

Tarun Thomas, a 16 year old server from East Ham refers to the educational aspect of serving. He tells viewers that his role as a server has taught him a great deal about how the church works and why worship matters.

Tarun believes serving is a great way of young people understanding the dynamics of liturgy and how the church works.

Bishop Warner is in no doubt that serving and vocations are obviously related as many priests start out as servers partly because of their proximity to what happens in the sanctuary.

Many of the main shots are taken at the recent annual festival of the Guild at St Albans Holborn. The colour and architecture of the building lends itself gloriously as a backdrop to the main celebration of the Mass.

Terry Doughty, Secretary general, said that everyone had been willing to help not only by being filmed on specific days but by giving serious thought to the vocation of serving itself. Terry, who appears in one of the films himself, said that the ultimate aim was to show the work of the Guild in action and to encourage parishes not only to recruit servers but to ensure that they had mutual support and fellowship.

Throughout both films, recruitment information in terms of how to contact the Guild appears on screen encouraging the viewer to respond. . As the church struggles to remain relevant and dynamic by offering the communities they serve a glimpse of heaven, what happens in the sanctuary is inevitably under scrutiny. The videos are aimed at being shown after coffee in church or perhaps at a church council meeting simply to prompt lay folk into recognising the importance of this invaluable work.

www.gssonline.org.uk www.facebook.com/groups/serversgss https://youtu.be/B8Evoia0vpY & https://youtu.be/3HHGDbSQ774

Saint Francis of Assisi, Friar Park Parish Profile

If you Google 'Friar Park' you will be taken to a grand building associated with George Harrison of Beatles' fame near Henley. You are in the wrong place!

This Friar Park, and the Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi, is located between West Bromwich and Wednesbury in the West Midlands, in the shadow of the M5 and M6, a council estate of the 1920s/30s which rehoused families from town centre slum clearances. Like many estates it has problems, often caused by lack of maintenance or adequate funding – it hasn't the kudos of inner city deprivation. The parish is in the top 5% of deprivation nationally, with high rates of anti-social behaviour, unemployment, compromised health, and single-parent households.

That said, the present Parish Priest who arrived in 2005, Father Ron Farrell, describes it as "a really good place to be" with a reputation based more on the past than on the present, "rough but respectable". At the centre of the Friar Park Estate is set a remarkable large parish church, the gift of a Wolverhampton brother and sister who willed a building, Italian in style, faced in stone, dedicated to Saint Francis, which would offer worship in the Catholic Tradition – they got their way in all of this (although the money they left was divided to allow the building also of Saint Martin's, Wolverhampton).

There is no Parish Hall, although a 'recreation area' at the back of the church was created in the 1990s, so some social life and outreach is possible, but rather limited for space. Over the last ten years there has been a splendid £1million restoration of the building. But, perhaps more important than the fabric (though new heating has been a great hit!), the restoration of the building has been matched by the restoration of a Church Community which has grown from 35/40 in early 2005 (many now dead or in care) to about 75/80 most Sundays (with probably 100 people associated with the church) with a full age range from infants to people in their 90s, with each decade represented; Friar Park is one of the few congregations locally getting younger.

A significant milestone was achieved this year with the ordination of Father Gary Hartill to the Sacred Priesthood. A local lad, who spent time in care and left school with no qualifications, by day Father Gary is a lorry driver, but gives his evenings and weekends to the mission of his Parish, having endured an eight year journey to ministry as an Ordained Local Minister under the auspices of the Diocese of Lichfield and The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. Father Gary was Churchwarden in 2005 and involved in Father Ron's appointment; little did he know what they were getting! It was Father Gary's daughter who spilt the beans early on that her dad longed to be a priest, and so Father Ron began negotiations with the Diocese to see how to make that dream come true. Father Gary has the most supportive of families, and wife Carole is currently Churchwarden as well as singing in the choir with Father Gary's mum.

4 October 2015 was another memorable night in the Parish's life. At the Patronal Festival attended by about 250 folk (which has become fairly usual for S Francis' Day Masses), Bishop Roger Jupp confirmed 17 candidates ranging in age from 8 to 75, the highest number of candidates the parish has known since 1976. However these 17 reflect today's patterns of worship, with some able only to worship on weeknights and some irregularly due to shift work. The daily Mass in Friar Park is well attended (when he first came Father Ron asked people exactly when they wanted Mass to be offered and challenged them to attend), and quite regularly the total number of weekday Communions exceeds the Sunday number.

Occasional Offices had dwindled, but there are now large numbers of baptisms and funerals, and weddings are well on the increase with over 20 already booked for next year, and large numbers come (perhaps 1000 each year) to remember their beloved dead at quarterly Memorial Services.

Fathers Gary and Ron have a traditional model of pastoral care, grounded in the Daily Office and Mass, that includes visiting the schools and residential homes in the area and the local Sandwell Hospital, as well as the homes of worshippers and parishioners; they can often be found in local shops just chatting. Friar Park is a fairly settled area with several generations often living in close proximity.

The motto of the Parish is 'Saint Francis of Assisi : the Church of England at the heart of Friar Park', and in all that people and priests do, they try to make this reality rather than hope, with lively worship, accessible preaching, and a very trad model of pastoral care that aims to value every individual. Saint Benedict in his Rule says monks should welcome guests "as Christ himself", and the same applies to each person (we hope and pray!) touched by Saint Francis, Friar Park; perhaps the growth in numbers may suggest this is more than occasionally the case. There's nothing strange or extraordinary about the Parish, just a very ordered way of life grounded in prayer and reliant on grace.